



A King, a Witch, a Devil

WORSHIP

We praise God together.

Power Text

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing. . . . Never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

Key Text and References

1 Samuel 28:3-25; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 675-689; student story on page 114 of this guide.

Objectives

The students will:

Know that their worship praises God, who is stronger than Satan.

Feel sure that God is victorious even over the dangers of the occult.

Respond by choosing to avoid spiritualism in all its forms and to worship the true God.

Power Point



We worship God when we ignore Satan's lies and focus on His truth.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Saul does not humble himself before God and visits the witch of Endor. The witch produces a spirit that she claims is Samuel. But Samuel is already dead. The Bible says that the dead are asleep, unconscious, and know nothing.

This is a lesson about worship.

Ever since the Garden of Eden Satan

has been continuing his lies about what happens to us when we die. We worship God when we follow Him and stay away from the lies and snares of Satan.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was not God's holy prophet that came forth at the spell of a sorcerer's incantations. Samuel was not present in that haunt of evil spirits. That supernatu-

ELEVEN

Program Notes			
Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. <i>Truth and Lies</i> B. <i>Trapped</i>	Sample magazine ads (optional), scissors, glue, poster board, markers Mouse trap (or other trap), cheese or peanut butter, long stick or pencil, paper, pencils; optional: TV program guides, movie listings, top 40 song titles
* Prayer and Praise*	15-20	See page 110. * Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	<i>Protected</i>	Clear glass container, pepper, liquid detergent, water
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	<i>Twisted Truth</i>	Paper, pencils, marker board, marker, art supplies

ral appearance was produced solely by the power of Satan. He could as easily assume the form of Samuel as he could assume that of an angel of light, when he tempted Christ in the wilderness. . . .

"When Samuel was living, Saul had despised his counsel and had resented his reproofs. But now, in the hour of his distress and calamity, he felt that the prophet's guidance was his only hope, and in order to communicate with Heaven's ambassador he vainly had re-

course to the messenger of hell! Saul had placed himself fully in the power of Satan; and now he whose only delight is in causing misery and destruction, made the most of his advantage, to work the ruin of the unhappy king" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 679, 680).

What lies is the enemy attempting to make you believe? To what promises in God's word will you cling? How will you intentionally avoid Satan's lies and focus on God's truth?

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their table/small group leader. Have leader ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Then debrief student(s) on their Bible study activities last week. Say: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** (The leader should know what the students' activities were for the past week so he/she can direct discussion.) Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A. Truth and Lies

You Need:

- sample magazine ads (optional)
- scissors
- glue
- poster board
- markers

Have students work in pairs to design an advertisement for something bad and dangerous. But they need to make the product look "good." Products could include drugs, poison, hand grenades, nuclear war, swimming with sharks or alligators. After a few moments, have each pair show and explain their ad to the group.

Debriefing

Ask: **How are these ads like real ads you have seen on TV or in magazines? How are they different? Why do you think bad or harmful things sometimes seem appealing?**

Say: **Sometimes advertisers don't tell you the whole story because they are afraid you won't buy their product if you know the consequences of using it. In the same way we're often drawn into evil and wrong beliefs by outwardly attractive benefits that hide terrible consequences.**

Ask: **What are some ways that the truths of our power text, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, are twisted and advertised to be false?** (Encourage discussion of the spiritualistic influences in the media.) **What we want to remember today, however, is that**



We worship God when we ignore Satan's lies and focus on His truth.

(Adapted from *Smart Choices for PreTeen Kids* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1998], p. 60.)

B. Trapped

Show the mouse trap (or other trap) to the students. Ask: **Do you know what this is used for? How does it work?** (You can catch a creature by putting something in the trap that creature desires.) Demonstrate by placing a piece

of cheese or some peanut butter on the trap and setting it. Have the students see if they can poke the stick (or pencil) at the cheese without setting the trap off. Say: **We know that Satan wants to capture us away from worshipping God.** Ask: **What are ways that he is trapping us? What do you think he uses for bait?**

Divide the students into groups of four or five. Ask each group to list all the TV programs, movies or videos, or popular songs they can think of that talk about the supernatural. Say: **For our purposes we will call the supernatural anything that has dead people who appear to be talking or doing things, ghosts, or those using magic powers.** (For example: The Smurfs, Buffy, or the song by No Mercy that says: "When I die I keep on living . . . I'll be your angel up in heaven, forever my love shining down on you.") Give a few moments for the students to come up with a list (some may need to see the *TV Guide* for help).

Debriefing

Ask: **What trend do you notice here?** (a huge number of this type of theme) **Why do you think there are so many?** (Satan trying to convince people of a great lie) **What trap can you see being set?**

Say: **Jesus said death was like a sleep. Let's find and read our power text together, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.** Allow time for students to find and read the verses with you. **Those who are dead are resting or sleeping till Jesus comes. They are not up and around involved in people's lives. Our lesson will talk about the dangers of falling into Satan's trap.**



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You Need:

- mouse trap (or other trap)
- cheese OR peanut butter
- paper
- pencils

optional:

- TV program guides
- movie listings
- top 40 song titles

Notes

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Our God Reigns" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 41)

"Do Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 107)

"I Want to Be Ready" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 151)

Prayer Altar

You Need:

- paper
- pencils
- newspapers

Have the students write out a confession and commitment on a sheet of paper. Suggest the confession relates to some way they think they have been falling into Satan's trap (watching too much TV, listening to the wrong music, hanging out with the wrong crowd). The commitment will be some way that they want to worship God better during the coming week. Then give everyone a large sheet of newspaper to scrunch their papers up inside of, making "stones." Have the students bring their "stones" to the front and pile them up as an altar. Then ask everyone to kneel in a circle around the altar while two people pray—one a prayer of general confession and the other a prayer of general commitment. All are to say at the end "We choose to worship You, God, in all our lives. Amen."

There should be some way of disposing of these "confessions". If possible, burn, shred, drench with water or in some other way destroy the confessions. This can signify the way God "claims" our struggles and strengthens our weakness.

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* or another mission report available to you.

Offering

Remind students that through our offerings, we can help others learn about Satan's lies so that they can join us in worshipping God.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Introducing the Bible Story

If you did not use the Readiness B activity, use the mouse trap and ask: **What is this used for? How does it work?** Allow students the opportunity to poke at the trap to set it off. If you have a large class, bring several traps so that each student gets the chance to trip the device.

Say: **Today we are going to take a look at one of God's leaders and discover how Satan trapped him in an evil situation.**

If you already used the mouse trap in Readiness B, say: **We just examined how quick and deadly a mouse trap can be. There are lots of ways Satan has to trick us and trap us. Let's take a look at one of God's leaders, Saul, and see how Satan ensnared and enslaved him.**

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- Bibles

Have students find 1 Samuel 28 and prepare to read verses 3 through 25 with you.

Stop in the following places to discuss what is happening in the story.

1. Have someone read verses 3 through 6. Ask: **What is going on here? What kind of situation is Saul facing?** (Samuel is dead, and Saul does not have anyone speaking to him for God. Saul has tried to rid Israel of Satan's prophets and messengers that were so much a part of the religions of the people around Israel. The Philistines are going to fight Israel again. Saul is scared and trying to get a quick and easy answer from God without reestablishing a humble, repentant, personal relationship with Him. (See *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, pp. 585, 586.)

2. Have someone read verses 7 through 10. Ask: **What do you think of Saul's decision to try to find a witch?** (Remember that Saul has had troubles obeying God in the past; he has also been troubled by evil spirits in the past. Instead of humbly turning to God and waiting on Him, Saul wants answers now, from any source. Are we ever like that?)

3. Have someone read verses 11 through 14. Ask: **Was it really Samuel?** ("It was not God's holy prophet that came forth at the spell of a sorcerer's incantation. Samuel was not present in that haunt of evil spirits. That supernatural appearance was produced solely by the power of Satan. He could as easily assume the form of Samuel as he could assume that of an angel of light, when he tempted Christ in the wilderness" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 679).

4. Have someone read verses 15 through 19. Ask: **Notice verse 16. Is God ever our enemy?** (God hates sin, but He loves and sent His Son to die for people. It is just like Satan to try to paint a bad picture of God once again.)

5. Have someone read verses 20 through 25. Ask: **What's happening to Saul?** (He knows that he has completely cut his ties to God. If he hadn't done it before, he definitely has now. He has no doubt that he is facing his death. **What is happening to the witch?** (She is working illegally. She definitely doesn't want the king of Israel to be found dead in her cave. Fear is motivating everybody.)

Exploring the Bible

You Need:

- Bibles

Divide your students into study groups and distribute the following texts about death among the groups. Each group should

read and discuss their verses, designate a scribe to write down their comments, and a reader to read aloud their verses to the rest of the group when it is time. When each group has read and discussed their verses among themselves, ask them to read their texts and share their comments with the rest of the Sabbath School.

1. 2 Chronicles 21:1
2. Job 14:10-12
3. Psalm 13:3
4. Matthew 9:24; Mark 5:39
5. John 11:11-14

6. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52
7. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
8. Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10
9. Psalm 146:4

Debriefing

Say: **We need to understand what the Bible says about death so that the devil can't fool us with his lies.**



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3

Applying the Lesson

Protected

You Need:

- clear glass container
- pepper
- liquid detergent
- water

Say: **You are like this water** (as you pour water into the glass). **You are fresh and pure and clean. And Satan** (as you sprinkle pepper on the surface of the water) **wants to cover you with his evil plans and make you want to seek him out. During your life** (as you stick one finger in the water) **many things come in to tempt you.** (Some pepper should stick to your finger). **You need protection** (as you smear liquid detergent over your finger). **Worshiping God and focusing on Him is like this detergent—it acts as a protection. Watch what happens as you go about your daily life now, with His protecting covering.** (Dip the detergent-covered finger into the peppered water, and the pepper will

be repelled away from the finger. Be sure to try this at home with your detergent first!)

Ask: **What things does Satan bring into our lives to tempt us? How do they stick to us, like this pepper stuck to our fingers? What things can you choose this week to protect yourself from the dangers of the enemy?**

Debriefing

Say: **The Bible promises that when we give ourselves completely to God the devil will leave us alone. Saul had forgotten this protection from God and was allowing himself to be tempted into believing the devil's lies, falling into his trap.**



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4

Sharing the Lesson

Twisted Truth

Copy the following words onto the board. Cover them until it is time to use them.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils
- marker
- board
- marker
- art supplies

VOLE
UHTRT
MDFEROE
SILE
FCROMTO
YEMCR

Pass out pencils and

paper. Say: **Satan's way is to take what is good and twist it into something bad. I have written six words on the board. Almost all of these words describe a quality of God. Beware, though. There is one trap among them. When I say "go" and uncover the words, begin unscrambling them and writing**

them on your paper. (The answers are "love," "truth," "freedom," "lies," "comfort," "mercy.") Allow a few minutes and then ask different students to come and write the correct word beside the scrambled one.

Then distribute art supplies and ask students to create an advertisement for God (perhaps for the truth about death). Ask them to share their advertisement with someone this week.

Ask: **Who do you know that might want to hear this good news?**

Remind them that



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Closing

Ask who has had someone close to them die (wait for responses). What is something nice you remember about that person? What are you looking forward to telling this person on the way to heaven? For the closing prayer ask God to keep all of you safe from Satan's traps until you and your loved ones meet again on the way to heaven.

STUDENT LESSON

A King, a Witch, a Devil

Key Text

1 Samuel 28:3-25

Power Text

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; . . . never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

Power Point

**We
worship
God when
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His truth.**

Have there ever been times in your life when you were not sure what you should do? Whom did you go to for help? One thing for sure, it doesn't help to talk to someone who has already died. The Bible tells us the dead don't know anything.

Three cloaked figures steal silently across the plain of Jezreel. It is near midnight. The sentries do not see these men of Israel as they sneak past the sleeping Philistine army. The moon casts eerie shadows as they climb the mountain ridge to the witch's cave at Endor.

She thought her hiding place was secure, yet these men have found her. As soon as she sees one of them a shiver runs down her spine. Tall, commanding, this is no ordinary soldier standing before her. "What do you want?" she asks.

"I want you to consult a spirit for me," the tall one says, his deep voice cracking. "Bring up for me the one I name."

"Why do you ask me to do this? Don't you know that King Saul has expelled all the spirit mediums from Israel?"

Their eyes meet. She sees his terror. "I could be killed for doing this," she says.

"As surely as the Lord God lives, I swear that you will not be harmed for doing this."

"Whom do you want?" she asks.

"Samuel." At the mention of the dead prophet of God, she shudders. Looking at her guests, her eyes narrow. She stares at the tall one again, then closes her eyes and spreads her hands out on the table before her. Swaying back and forth, she begins the incantation.

The witch throws something into the fire, and it spits and crackles. "Ee-e-e-e-k," she screams. The three men jump. "You tricked me." She points a shaking hand at the tall one. "You tricked me. You are King Saul!"

"Don't be afraid," King Saul says. "What do you see?"

"A spirit," she answers, "coming up from the ground."

"What does he look like?"

"An old man wearing a robe."

"It is him!" Saul is desperate to believe that he will get some answers. A cloudy shadow rises from the smoke of the fire. Saul falls on his face before the apparition as if in worship.

The demon Satan has sent to impersonate Samuel looks like Samuel. He speaks like Samuel. His gestures even resemble those of the dead prophet.

"Why have you disturbed me?" the spirit asks.

"I am in great distress," Saul answers. "The Philistines are ready to fight me. God no longer answers me, either by prophets or dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do."

"Why do you consult me if the Lord will not answer you? Because you have rejected the Lord your God, He will hand the army of Israel over to the Philistines. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me." With this, the apparition vanishes in one poof.

"Ah-h-h-h-h," Saul screams, falling facedown on the damp floor of the cave. The witch rushes to him. "Sir, get up. Please." Saul does not respond.

His attendants lift him from the floor. Even though he is the king, they slap his cheeks, trying to revive him. "Sir. Your Honor," they call. Saul's eyelids flutter open.

"Sir," the witch says, "I have risked my life to do as you have requested. Please, get up and eat."

Saul remains motionless. "Rise and

eat," his attendants repeat. They drag him to a couch. The witch bakes bread and prepares a meal. Finally Saul eats.

"It will be daybreak soon," one attendant says to the king. "We must return." The three men wrap their cloaks around them and walk into the darkness. When they pass the Philistine camp they hear their enemies making preparations.

By consulting the witch of Endor, Saul has destroyed himself. Rather than turn to God in humility and repentance, Saul made the choice to consult Satan. He has separated himself from his only source of strength. Satan's message, given through the spirit impersonating Samuel, has worked. Now Saul cannot inspire his troops with courage for the battle. Now Saul cannot lead his men to look to God as their helper.

Satan and his legions rejoice.

Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 80.

Sunday

- Read "A King, a Witch, a Devil."
- Write out the power text in large block letters on a sheet of paper. Cut out each word. Shuffle the words, then try to place them in the correct order. Do this several times, repeating the text out loud each time you get it in order.
- Thank God that He is always there for us when we turn to Him in humility and trust.

Monday

- Read 1 Samuel 28:3.
- God had given specific instructions concerning spirit mediums. Up to now, Saul had followed these instructions. Read them in Leviticus 19:31; Leviticus 20:6; Isaiah 8:19, 20.
- How do you think these instructions relate to watching movies or TV about witches? Just because the programs are funny instead of scary, does that make it any better?
- Ask God to help you be strong in avoiding the supernatural influences in the world today.

Tuesday

- Read 1 Samuel 28:4-9.
- Why do you think God no longer answered Saul? (Verse 16 has a hint.)
- Many people today are concerned about the future. Why do you think people want to know their future?
- What things or people are available where you live that claim to tell the future? Who is the mastermind behind these things? Why is it dangerous

to consult such people or things?

- Ask God to give you peace of mind about your future.

Wednesday

- Read 1 Samuel 28:10-15.
- How do you think the woman knew this was Saul? What should Saul have known about the spirit that appeared to him? Read Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; Psalm 146:4; John 8:44. How could this information have helped Saul? How can this information help you?
- Pray that your life will be a powerful testimony that you are a follower of Jesus.

Thursday

- Read 1 Samuel 28:16-19.
- On small slips of paper, write as many words as you can that describe how a person is when dead (sleeping, quiet, cold). On the other side of each slip of paper write words that describe how the Christians will be when Jesus comes (awake, happy, rising up).
- Thank God that He has arranged for you and your family and friends to be able to go to heaven together.

Friday

- Read 1 Samuel 28:20-25.
- God has already conquered Satan.
- With your family at worship read Revelation 20:7-9 and discuss what Satan's fate will be because God is more powerful than Satan.
- Praise God together that He has overcome the devil, and ask for His strength to resist the temptations and clever devices of Satan that are all around us.